

## AP World History Class Notes

### Ch 33 Societies at a Crossroads

February 26, 2014

The dramatic economic expansion of western Europe & the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was not matched by the older empires of Asia. The Ottoman empire, the Qing dynasty, the Russian empire, & Tokugawa shogunate had all been vibrant & dynamic cultures at one time, but by 1800 had become isolated & backward. (see Ch 27-29) By 1900, all four had been challenged & changed profoundly. Some common dimensions of those changes were:

- Conservative autocratic regimes. None of the regimes discussed here shared in the liberal ideals of the Enlightenment or the revolutionary era. Rulers were absolute; individuals had few rights; & dissent was viewed as dangerous.
- Military unpreparedness. Since these regimes failed to modernize, they found themselves outgunned by the western powers. Often this realization followed a humiliating defeat—the loss of Egypt for the Ottomans, the Opium War for China, the Crimean War for Russia, & the unequal treaty forced on Japan by the U.S. For most regimes, this realization led to a radical restructuring of the military.
- Weak economies. All four regimes lacked the basic elements for industrialization: capital, free workers, & infrastructure. China & Japan had been closed economies & had little contact w/ the outside world. The Ottoman & Russian empires had been agricultural societies with large unskilled peasant populations.
- Imperial pressures. All four had to fight off the imperialistic encroachments of the industrializing powers. The Qing dynasty was the least successful &, by the end of the century, had lost control of its economy & much of its territorial sovereignty. Japan was most successful in competing economically & militarily with the west.
- Reform from the top down. Change, when it came, was entirely at the discretion of the rulers. Japanese reformers, for example, perceived that a written constitution would give credibility to their new state, so that emperor “gave” a constitution to the people that retained all power to the emperor. The Russian tsar [czar] granted, then rescinded, an elected legislature after the Revolution of 1905.

## 1. Introduction: Ottoman Empire, Russia, China, & Japan

### A. Common Problems

- 1) Military weakness, vulnerability to foreign threats
- 2) Internal weakness due to economic problems, financial difficulties, & corruption

### B. Reform Efforts

- 1) Attempts at political & educational reform & at industrialization
- 2) Turned to western models

### C. Different Results of Reforms

- 1) Ottoman Empire, Russia, & China unsuccessful; societies on the verge of collapse
- 2) Reform in Japan was more thorough; Japan emerged as an industrial power

## 2. The Ottoman Empire in Decline

### A. The Nature of Decline

- 1) Military decline since late 17<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. Ottoman forces behind European armies in strategy, tactics, weaponry, training
  - b. Janissary corps politically corrupt, undisciplined
  - c. Provincial governors gained power, private armies
- 2) Extensive territorial losses in 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. Lost Caucasus & central Asia to Russia; western frontiers to Austria; Balkan provinces to Greece & Serbia
  - b. Egypt gained autonomy after Napoleon's failed campaign in 1798
    - (1) General Muhammad Ali built a powerful, modern army
- 3) Economic difficulties began in 17<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. Trade ↘ as Europeans shifted focus from Medit. → Atlantic
  - b. Exported raw materials, imported European manufactured goods
  - c. Heavily depended on foreign loans, 1/2 of revenues paid to loan interest
  - d. Foreigners began to administer Ottoman debts by 1882
- 4) The "capitulations": European domination of Ottoman economy
  - a. Extraterritoriality: Europeans exempt from Ottoman law
  - b. Could operate tax-free, levy their own duties in Ottoman ports
  - c. Deprived empire of desperately needed income

### B. Reform & Reorganization

- 1) Attempt to reform military led to violent Janissary revolt (1807-08)
- 2) Reformer Mahmud II (1808-1839) became sultan after revolt
  - a. When Janissaries resisted, Mahmud had them killed; cleared the way for reforms
  - b. Built European-style army, academies, schools, roads, telegraph
- 3) Legal & educational reforms of the Tanzimat ("reorganization") era (1839-1876)
  - a. Ruling class sought sweeping restructuring to strengthen state
  - b. Broad legal reforms, modeled after Napoleon's civic code
  - c. State reform of education (1846), free & compulsory primary education (1869)
  - d. Undermined authority of the ulama, enhanced state authority
- 4) Opposition to Tanzimat reforms
  - a. Religious conservatives critical of attack on Islamic law/tradition
  - b. Legal equality for minorities resented by some, even a few minority leaders
  - c. younger Ottomans wanted more reform: freedom, autonomy, decentralization
  - d. High-level bureaucrats wanted more power for themselves, more limits on sultan's power

**How did gov'ts respond to the tremendous economic changes of the Industrial Revolution?**

**How did anti-imperialism affect the Ottoman Empire's territories?**

**How did workers respond to the Ind. Rev., and how did their vision of society compare to industrialists'?**

**How did imperial gov'ts react to nationalistic rebellions?**

C. The Young Turk Era

- 1) Cycles of reform & repression
  - a. 1876, coup staged by bureaucrats, demanded constitutional gov't
  - b. New sultan Abd al-Hamid II (1876-1909) proved an autocrat:
    - (1) suspended constitution
    - (2) dissolved parliament
    - (3) punished liberals
  - c. Reformed army & admin. became source of new opposition
- 2) The Young Turks, after 1889, an active body of opposition. *Note: The "Young Turks" were neither young nor necessarily Turkish.*
  - a. Called for universal suffrage, equality, freedom, secularization, women's rights (!)
  - b. Forced Abd al-Hamid to restore constitution, dethroned (1909)
  - c. Nationalistic: favored Turkish dominance w/in empire, led to Arab resistance
  - d. Empire survived only because of distrust among European powers (Even Russia called the Ottoman Empire "the Sick Man of Europe")

**How and why did some gov'ts reform their practices because of the Industrial Revolution?**

### 3. The Russian Empire Under Pressure

A. Military Defeat & Social Reform

- 1) The Crimean War (1853-1856)
  - a. 19<sup>th</sup>-century Russia ➔ from Manchuria, across Asia to Baltic Sea
  - b. Sought access to Mediterranean Sea, moved on Balkans (controlled by Ottomans)
  - c. European coalition supported Ottomans against Russia in Crimea
  - d. Crushing defeat forced tsars to take radical steps, modernize army, industry
- 2) Emancipation of serfs in 1861 by Alexander II
  - a. Serfdom supported landed nobles, obstacle to econ. development
  - b. Serfs gained right to own land, but no political rights; had to pay a redemption tax
  - c. Emancipation did not increase agricultural production
- 3) Political & legal reforms followed
  - a. 1864, creation of zemstvos, local assemblies w/ representatives from all classes
  - b. A weak system: nobles dominated, tsar held veto power
  - c. Legal reform more successful: juries, independent judges, professional attorneys

### B. Industrialization

- 1) The Witte system: developed by Sergei Witte, minister of finance, 1892-1903
  - a. RR construction stimulated other industries; trans-Siberian RR
  - b. Remodeled state bank, protected infant industries, secured foreign loans
  - c. Top-down industrialization effective: steel, coal, oil industries ↗
- 2) Industrial discontent intensified
  - a. Rapid industrialization fell hardest on working classes
  - b. Unions, strikes outlawed, workers became increasingly radical
  - c. Business class supported autocracy, not reform

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### C. Repression & Revolution

- 1) Cycles of protest & repression
  - a. Peasants landless, no political power, frustrated by lack of meaningful reform
  - b. Anti-gov't protest & revolutionary activity increased in 1870s
  - c. Intelligentsia advocated socialism & anarchism, recruited in countryside
  - d. Repression by tsarist authorities: secret police, censorship
  - e. Russification: sparked ethnic nationalism, attacks on Jews (Pogroms) tolerated
- 2) Terrorism emerges as a tool of opposition
  - a. Alexander II, the reforming tsar who emancipated the serfs, assassinated by a bomb, 1881
  - b. Nicholas II (1894-1917), more oppressive, conservative ruler
- 3) Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05: Russian expansion to E led to conflict vs. Japan (& embarrassing defeat)
- 4) Revolution of 1905: triggered by costly Russian defeat by Japan
  - a. Bloody Sunday: unarmed workers protesting food shortages shot down by gov't troops
  - b. Peasants seized landlords' property; workers formed soviets
  - c. Tsar forced to accept Duma (elected legislature) didn't end conflict

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## 4. The Chinese Empire Under Siege

### A. The Opium War & the Unequal Treaties

- 1) Opium trade a serious threat to Qing dynasty by 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. *cohong* system restricted foreign merchants to one port city
  - b. China had much to offer, but little demand for European products
  - c. E India Co. cultivated opium to exchange for Chinese goods
  - d. About 40,000 chests of opium shipped to China yearly by 1838
- 2) The Opium War (1839-1842)
  - a. Commissioner Lin Zexu directed to stop opium trade
  - b. British refused; Lin confiscated/destroyed 20,000 chests of opium
  - c. British retaliated, crushed Chinese forces, destroyed Grand Canal

- 3) Unequal treaties forced trade concessions from Qing dynasty
  - a. Treaty of Nanjing, 1842: Britain gained right to opium trade, most-favored-nation status, Hong Kong, open trade ports, exemptions from Chinese laws (extraterritoriality)
  - b. Similar unequal treaties made to other western countries & Japan
  - c. By 1900, China lost control of economy, 90 ports to foreigners

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**B. The Taiping Rebellion**

**How did religion influence nationalism?**

- 1) Internal turmoil in China in later 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. Pop. ↗ 50%; land & food more slowly; poverty strained resources
  - b. Other problems: official corruption, drug addiction
  - c. Four major rebellions 1850s-60s; most dangerous was Taiping
- 2) The Taiping ("Great Peace") program proposed by Hong Xiuquan
  - a. Called for end of Qing dynasty; resented Manchu rule
  - b. Radical social change: no private property, footbinding, or concubinage
  - c. Popular in SE China; seized Nanjing (1853), moved on Beijing
- 3) Taiping defeat by combined Qing & foreign troops
  - a. Gentry sided w/ gov't; regional armies had European weapons
  - b. Taipings defeated, 1864; war claimed 20-30 million lives (most from starvation)

**How did imperial gov'ts react to nationalistic rebellions?**

**C. Reform Frustrated**

- 1) The Self-Strengthening Movement (1860-1895)
  - a. Sought to blend Chinese cultural traditions w/ European industrial technology
  - b. Built shipyards, RR, weapon indust, steel foundries academies
  - c. Not enough industry to make a significant change
  - d. Powerful empress dowager Cixi opposed changes
- 2) Spheres of influence eroded Chinese power
  - a. Foreign powers seized Chinese tribute states of Vietnam, Burma, Korea, Taiwan
  - b. 1898, carved China into spheres of economic influence, each a different province
- 3) The Hundred Days reforms (1898)
  - a. Confucian scholars advised radical changes in imperial system
  - b. Young emperor Guangxu inspired to launch wide-range reforms, incl. constitutional monarchy
  - c. Movement crushed by Cixi & supporters; emperor imprisoned; reformers killed
- 4) The Boxer Rebellion (The Society of Righteous & Harmonious Fists), 1899-1900
  - a. Local militia attacked foreigners, Chinese Christians
  - b. Crushed by European & Japanese troops
  - c. Collapse of Qing dynasty in 1912

**How did imperialism help, hurt, or change various states?**

## 5. The Transformation of Japan

### A. From Tokugawa to Meiji

- 1) Crisis & reform in early 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. Crisis: crop failure, high taxes, rising rice prices all led to protests & rebellions
  - b. Tokugawa tried conservative reforms, met w/ resistance
- 2) Foreign pressure on Japan to reverse long-standing closed door policy
  - a. 1844 requests by British, French, & U.S. for entry rebuffed
  - b. 1853, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry sailed U.S. squadron into Tokyo Bay, demanded entry
  - c. Forced to accept unequal treaties w/ U.S. & other W countries
- 3) The end of Tokugawa rule followed these humiliations
  - a. Widespread opposition to shogun rule, especially in provinces
  - b. Dissidents rallied around emperor in Kyoto
- 4) The Meiji restoration, 1868
  - a. Brief civil war, Tokugawa armies defeated by dissident militia
  - b. boy emperor Mutsuhito, or Meiji, regained authority
  - c. Ended almost 700 yrs of military rule in Japan

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### B. Meiji Reforms

- 1) Meiji gov't welcomed foreign expertise, studied western constitutions & education, built constitutional gov't
- 2) Abolition of the feudal social order essential to new gov't
  - a. Daimyo & samurai lost status & privileges
  - b. Districts reorganized to break up old feudal domains
  - c. New conscript army ended samurai's power
- 3) Revamping tax system
  - a. Converted grain taxes to a fixed money tax: more reliable income
  - b. Assessed taxes on potential productivity of arable land
- 4) Constitutional gov't, the emperor's "gift" to the people, 1889
  - a. Emperor remained supreme, limited the rights of the people
  - b. Less than 5% of adult males could vote
  - c. Legislature, the Diet, was an opportunity for debate & dissent
- 5) Remodeling the economy & infrastructure
  - a. Transportation: railroads, telegraph, steamships
  - b. Education: universal primary & secondary; competitive univ.
  - c. Industry: privately owned, gov't controlled arms industry
  - d. Zaibatsu: powerful financial cliques
- 6) Costs of economic development borne by Japanese people
  - a. Land tax cost peasants 40-50% of crops, provided 90% of gov't rev
  - b. Peasant uprisings crushed; little done to alleviate suffering
  - c. Labor movement crushed; unions & strikes treated as criminal
- 7) Japan became an industrial power in a single generation
  - a. Ended unequal treaties in 1899
  - b. Defeated China in 1895 & Russia in 1904, colonized Taiwan, 1894, and Korea, 1910.

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